SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
10¢
MAR.
NO. 114
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BATMAN
Featuring "THE BAT-APE!"
GOOD WORK, MOGO! NOW LOWER THE POLE DOWN TO THE OTHER ROOF!

BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

WHERE, AMID THE SUPER-SCIENTIFIC STRUCTURES, COULD THE FLEEING FUGITIVE HAVE HIDDEN THE VITAL FORMULA? HOW WAS IT POSSIBLE TO CAPTURE A WHOLE GANG OF CRIMINALS IN THIS VAST WORLD OF THE FUTURE, PEOPLED BY SELF-OPERATING ROBOTS? TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS, BATMAN AND ROBIN FIRST HAD TO SOLVE...

The SECRET OF MECHANICAL CITY

SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG WITH THE SENTRY-ROBOT! IT'S RUNNING BERSERK!

THROUGH GOTHAM CITY GLIDES THE FAMILIAR BATMOBILE, ONCE MORE ANSWERING AN URGENT SUMMONS...

BATMAN, DO YOU THINK IT WAS PROFESSOR DODGE WHO STOLE THE FORMULA FROM SCIENCE HALL?

HE'S SUSPECTED OF BEING BEHIND SOME SHADY DEALS, ROBIN... THERE'S NO HARM IN KEEPING AN EYE ON HIM!

AT A WEST SIDE LABORATORY, THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTERS ASCEND TO A SKYLIGHT, WHERE...

WAIT! LISTEN...

LIGHTFINGERS DOUBLE-CROSSED US! HE USED OUR PLANS -- AND BEAT US TO THE FORMULA!

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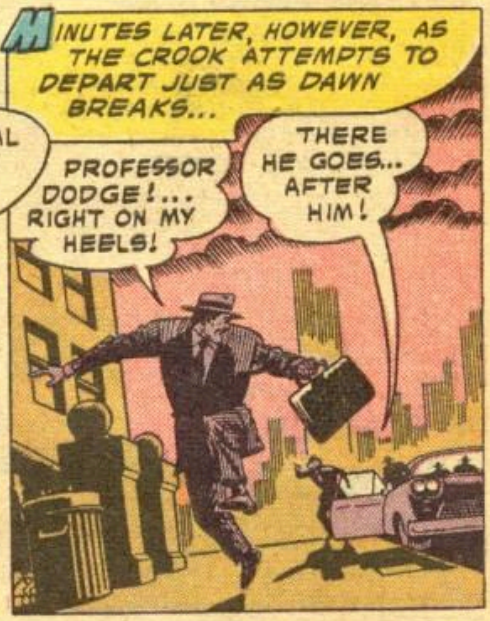
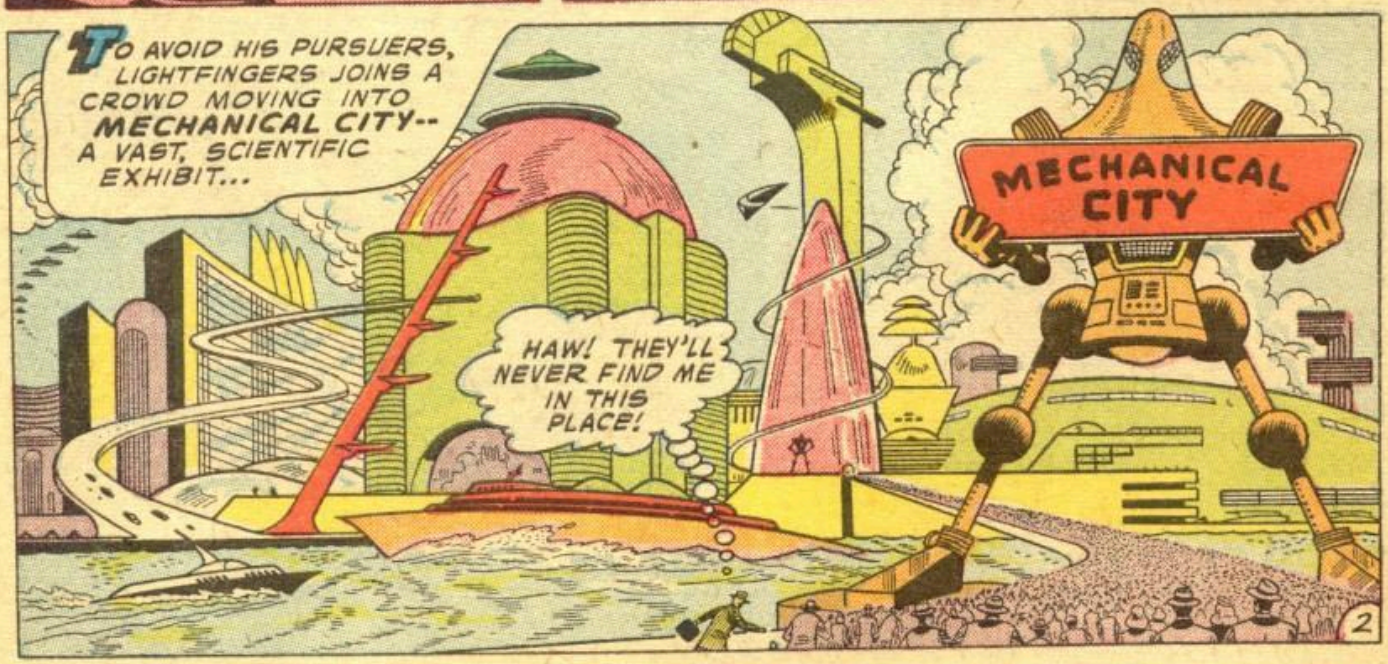
WAIT... HERE'S JINXIE! MAYBE HE'S LEARNED SOMETHING!
PROFESSOR DODGE! I FOUND OUT WHERE LIGHTFINGERS IS HIDIN'! I CAN TAKE YOU THERE NOW!

INDEED? WE SHALL PAY MR. LIGHTFINGERS A VISIT--AT ONCE!
MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT! NOW WE'LL FOLLOW ALONG-- AND CRACK DOWN ON THE WHOLE MOB, WHEN WE GET THE FORMULA!

BUT AT THIS VERY MOMENT, IN HIS HIDEOUT, HARRY "LIGHTFINGERS" HALE PLANS A HURRIED VACATION...
THE HIGH-PRICED FORMULA, NEATLY PHOTOGRAPHED ON MICROFILM... HA, HA... AND IT'S ALL MINE!

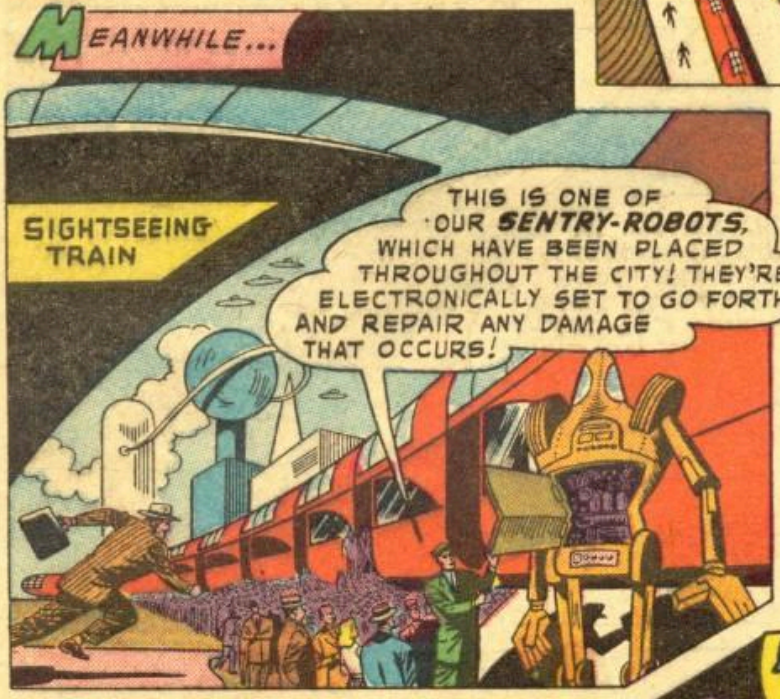
THEY HAD THE FILM IN THIS BRIEFCASE, WHICH IS LINED WITH LEAD! THAT'S TO PREVENT ANY ACCIDENTAL EXPOSURE OF IT TO X-RAYS OR ATOMIC RADIATION! GUESS THAT'S THE SAFEST PLACE FOR IT!

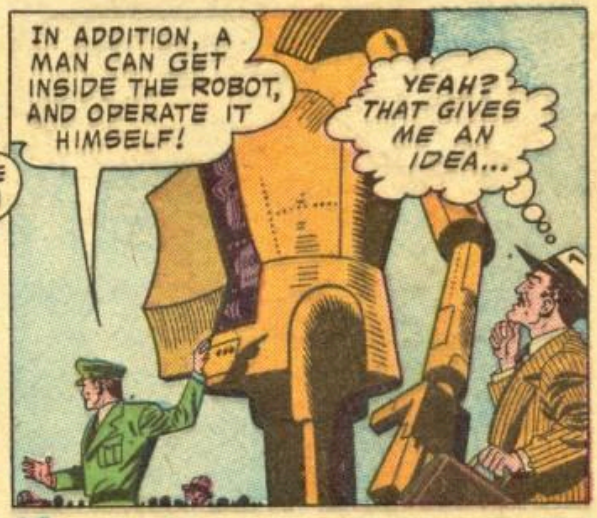

MINUTES LATER, HOWEVER, AS THE CROOK ATTEMPTS TO DEPART JUST AS DAWN BREAKS...
PROFESSOR DODGE!... RIGHT ON MY HEELS!
THERE HE GOES... AFTER HIM!


TO AVOID HIS PURSUERS, LIGHTFINGERS JOINS A CROWD MOVING INTO MECHANICAL CITY-- A VAST, SCIENTIFIC EXHIBIT...
MECHANICAL CITY
HAW! THEY'LL NEVER FIND ME IN THIS PLACE!

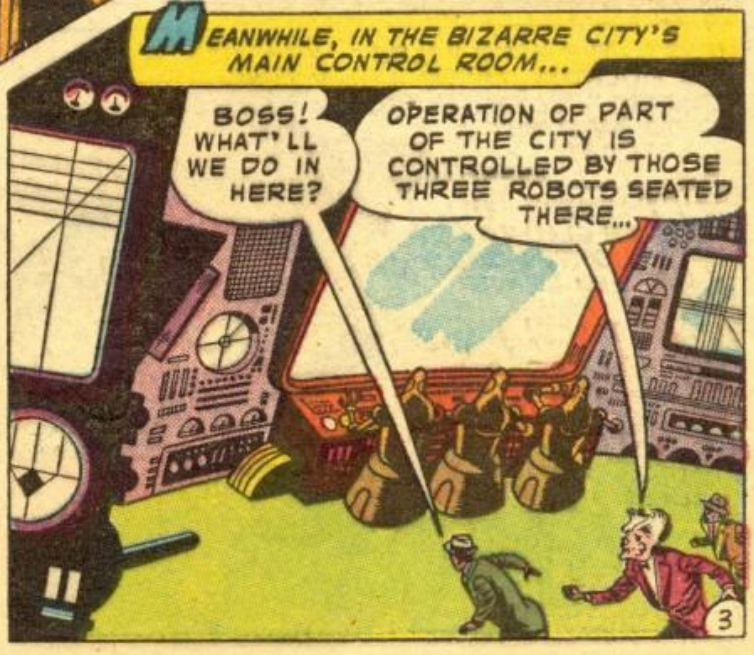
BUT TWO OTHER FIGURES ARE ALSO ON THE TRAIL... BATMAN AND ROBIN!
LIGHTFINGERS ENTERED THE CITY-- WITH PROFESSOR DODGE IN HOT PURSUIT!

MECHANICAL CITY-- A MARVEL OF SCIENCE!
YES, EVERYTHING HERE IS ABSOLUTELY MECHANIZED-- EVEN THE ROBOT POPULATION! AND THIS IS WHERE WE MUST LOCATE LIGHTFINGERS!

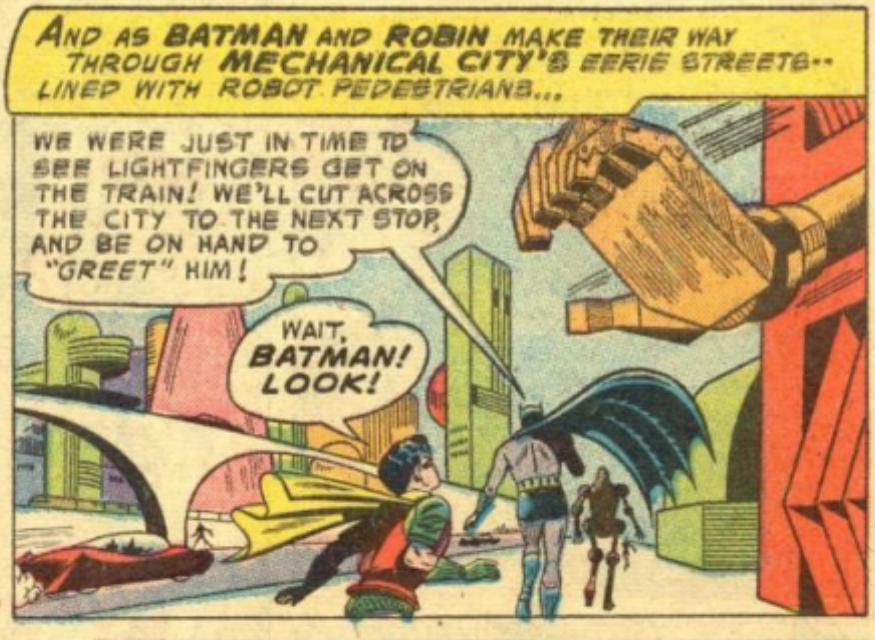

MEANWHILE...
SIGHTSEEING TRAIN
THIS IS ONE OF OUR SENTRY-ROBOTS, WHICH HAVE BEEN PLACED THROUGHOUT THE CITY! THEY'RE ELECTRONICALLY SET TO GO FORTH AND REPAIR ANY DAMAGE THAT OCCURS!

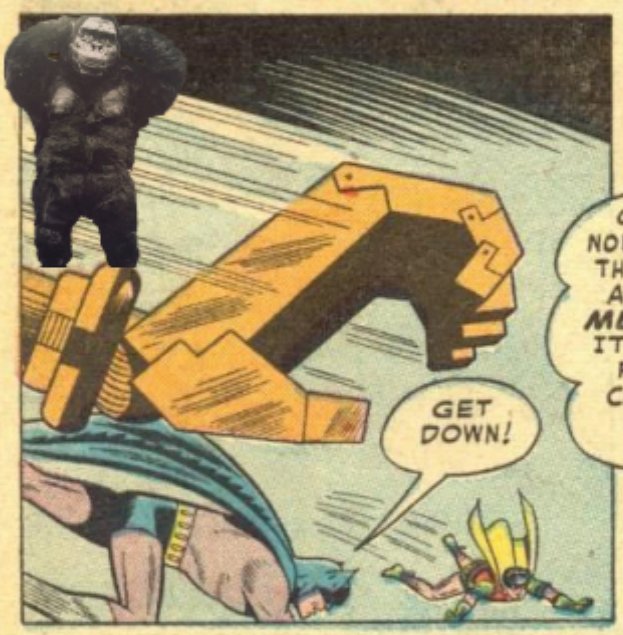

IN ADDITION, A MAN CAN GET INSIDE THE ROBOT, AND OPERATE IT HIMSELF!
YEAH? THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA...

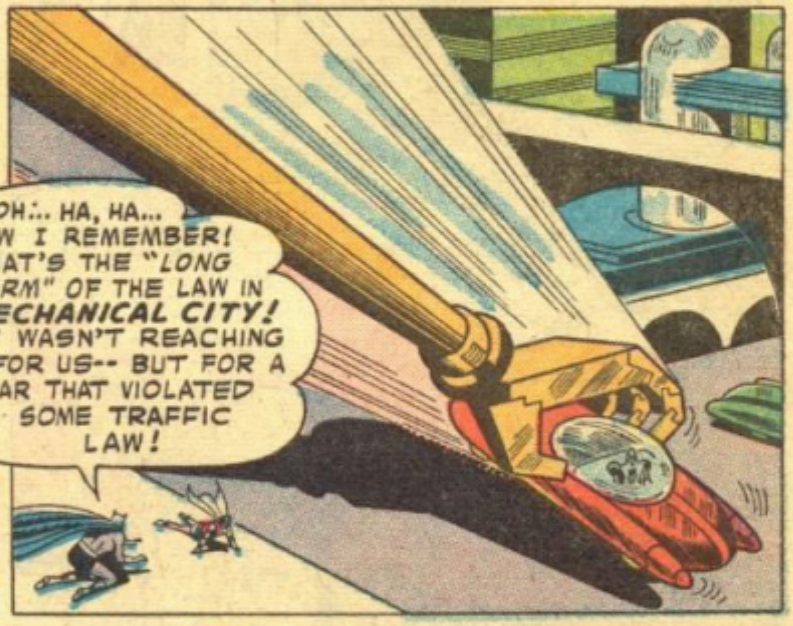
A MOMENT LATER, LIGHTFINGERS BOARDS THE SIGHTSEEING TRAIN...
NOW FOR A LITTLE RIDE-- TO LOSE MYSELF!

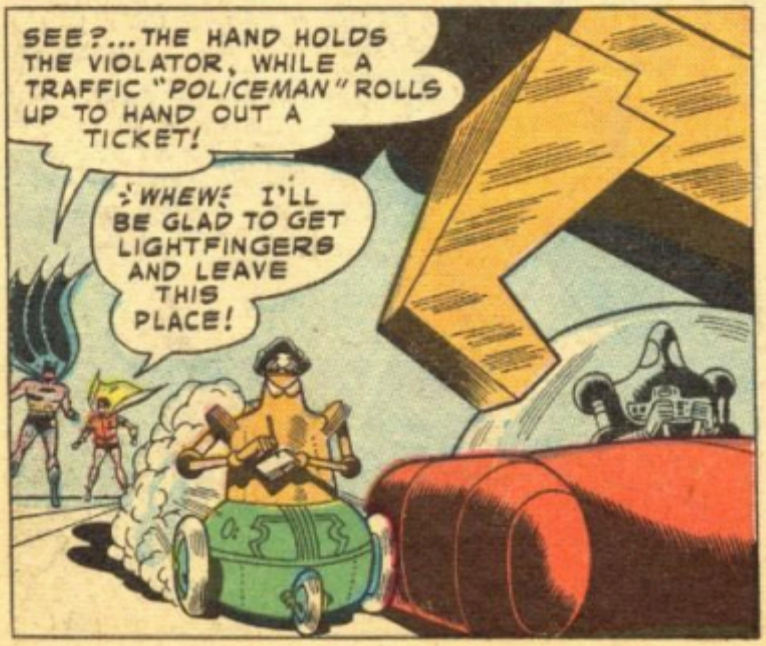

MEANWHILE, IN THE BIZARRE CITY'S MAIN CONTROL ROOM...
BOSS! WHAT'LL WE DO IN HERE?
OPERATION OF PART OF THE CITY IS CONTROLLED BY THOSE THREE ROBOTS SEATED THERE...

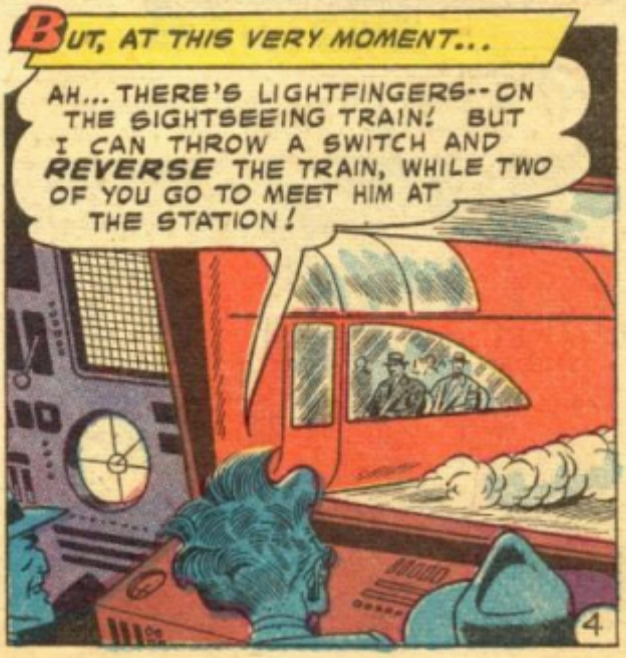
... BUT THIS SWITCH PUTS THINGS ON MANUAL CONTROL-- AND GIVES US A CHANCE TO SEE PLACES ON THE TELE-VIEW SCREEN! THAT'S HOW WE'LL SPOT LIGHTFINGERS!

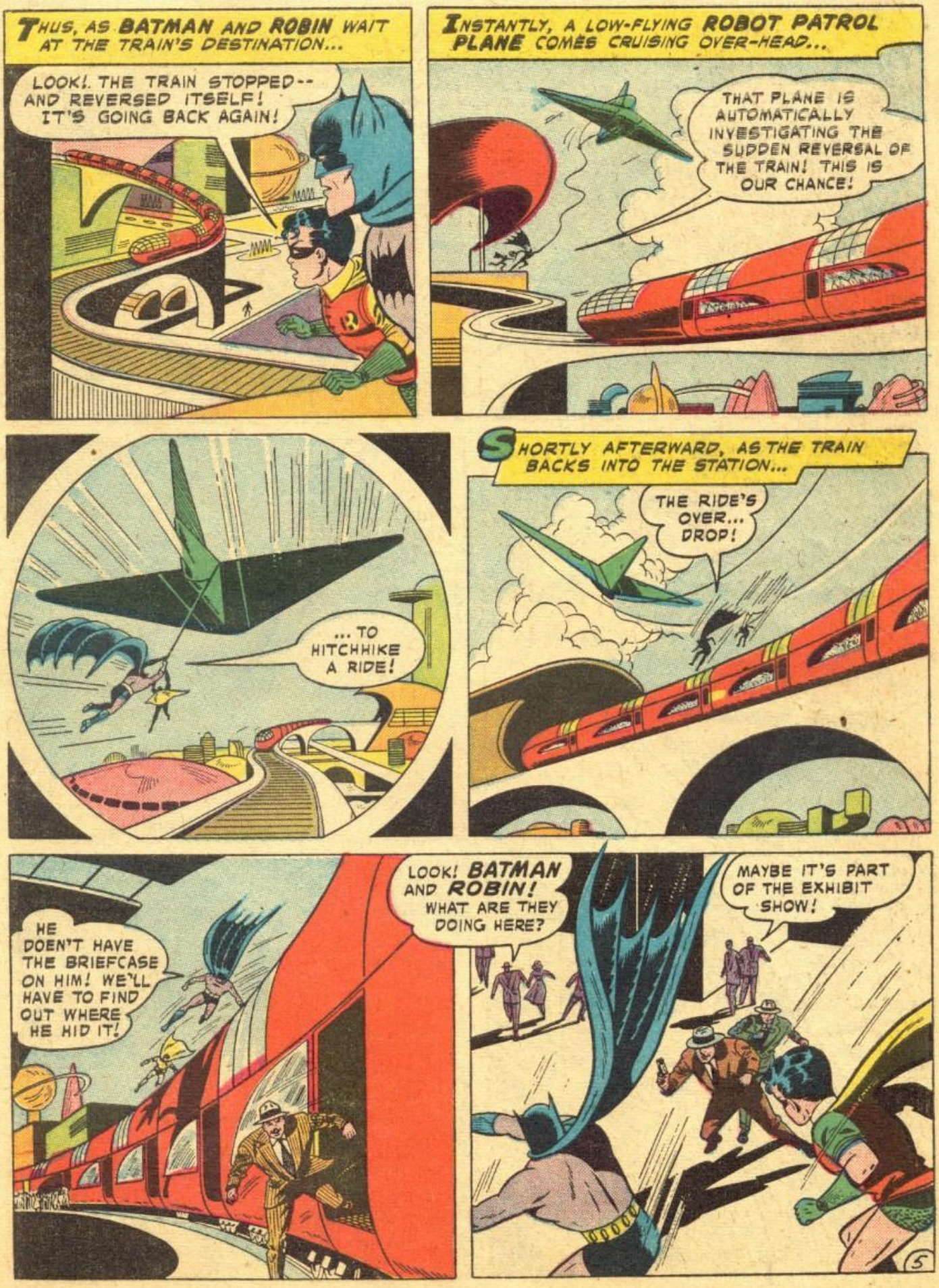

AND AS BATMAN AND ROBIN MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH MECHANICAL CITY'S EERIE STREETS-- LINED WITH ROBOT PEDESTRIANS...
WE WERE JUST IN TIME TO SEE LIGHTFINGERS GET ON THE TRAIN! WE'LL CUT ACROSS THE CITY TO THE NEXT STOP, AND BE ON HAND TO "GREET" HIM!
WAIT, BATMAN! LOOK!

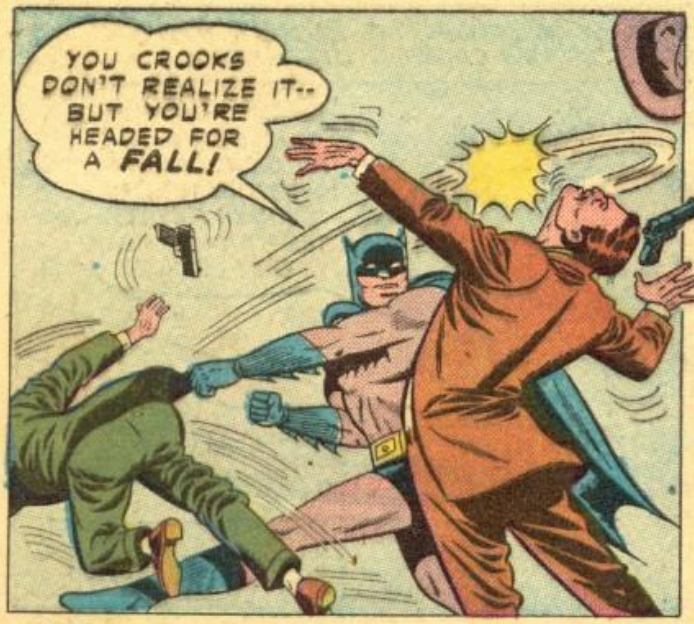

GET DOWN!


OH... HA, HA... NOW I REMEMBER! THAT'S THE "LONG ARM" OF THE LAW IN MECHANICAL CITY! IT WASN'T REACHING FOR US-- BUT FOR A CAR THAT VIOLATED SOME TRAFFIC LAW!


SEE?... THE HAND HOLDS THE VIOLATOR, WHILE A TRAFFIC "POLICEMAN" ROLLS UP TO HAND OUT A TICKET!
WHEW! I'LL BE GLAD TO GET LIGHTFINGERS AND LEAVE THIS PLACE!

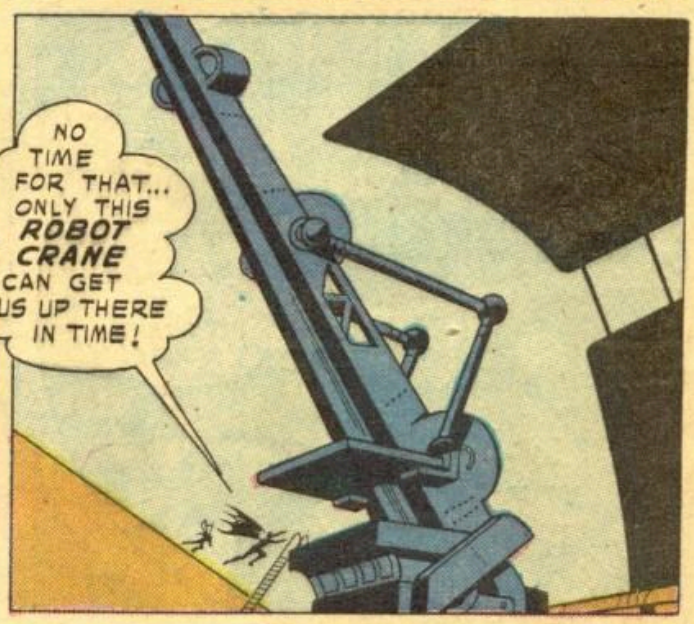

BUT, AT THIS VERY MOMENT...
AH... THERE'S LIGHTFINGERS-- ON THE SIGHTSEEING TRAIN! BUT I CAN THROW A SWITCH AND REVERSE THE TRAIN, WHILE TWO OF YOU GO TO MEET HIM AT THE STATION!

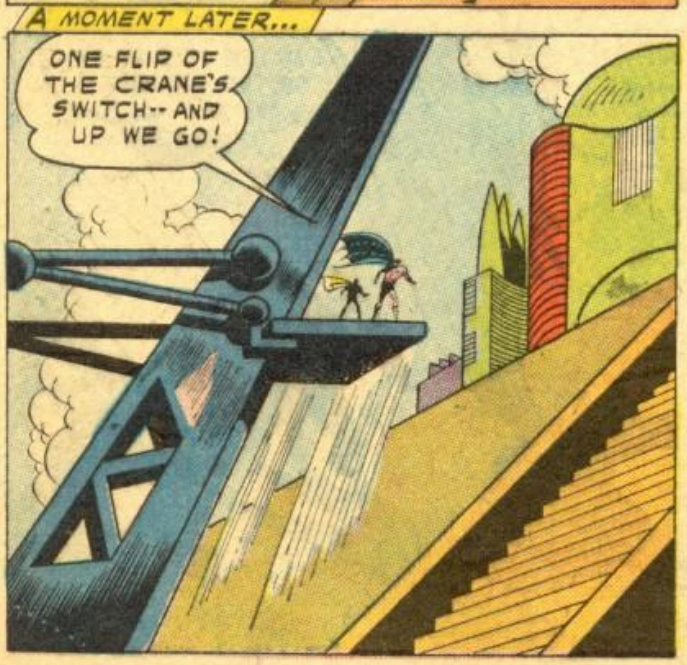

THUS, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN WAIT AT THE TRAIN'S DESTINATION...
LOOK!. THE TRAIN STOPPED-- AND REVERSED ITSELF! IT'S GOING BACK AGAIN!
INSTANTLY, A LOW-FLYING ROBOT PATROL PLANE COMES CRUISING OVER-HEAD...
THAT PLANE IS AUTOMATICALLY INVESTIGATING THE SUDDEN REVERSAL OF THE TRAIN! THIS IS OUR CHANCE!
... TO HITCHHIKE A RIDE!
SHORTLY AFTERWARD, AS THE TRAIN BACKS INTO THE STATION...
THE RIDE'S OVER... DROP!
HE DOEN'T HAVE THE BRIEFCASE ON HIM! WE'LL HAVE TO FIND OUT WHERE HE HID IT!
LOOK! BATMAN AND ROBIN! WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?
MAYBE IT'S PART OF THE EXHIBIT SHOW!
5


YOU CROOKS DON'T REALIZE IT-- BUT YOU'RE HEADED FOR A FALL!

DURING THE MELEE, LIGHTFINGERS RACES FOR AN ESCALATOR, LEADING TO AN UPPER STREET LEVEL...
SOME SPOT! BOTH THE GANG AND BATMAN ARE AFTER ME NOW! WELL--EVEN IF THEY CATCH ME, THEY'LL NEVER FIGURE OUT WHERE I HID THE BRIEFCASE!

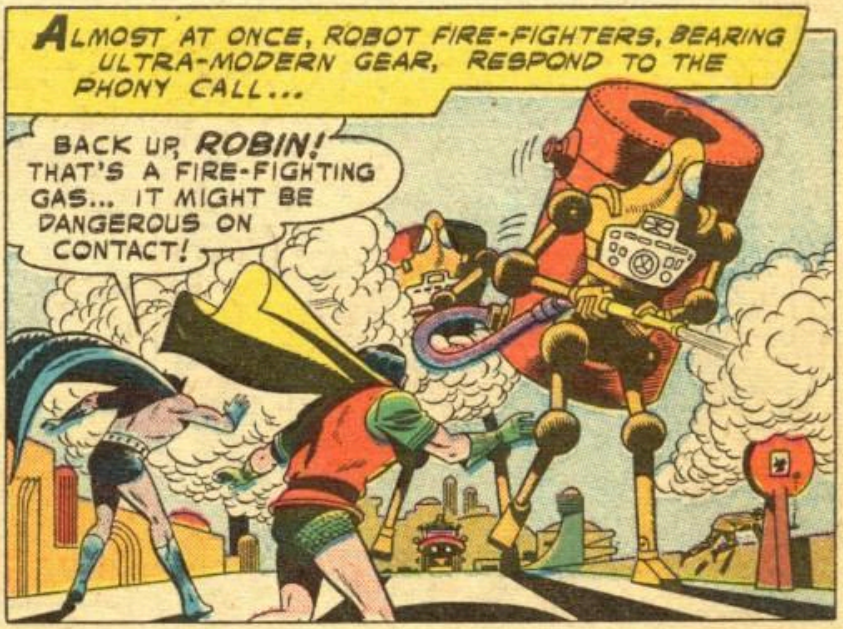
WITH THE CROOKS DISPOSED OF, BATMAN AND ROBIN RUSH TO THE ESCALATOR-- BUT...
HE JAMMED THE CONTROLS! WE'LL HAVE TO CLIMB UP!

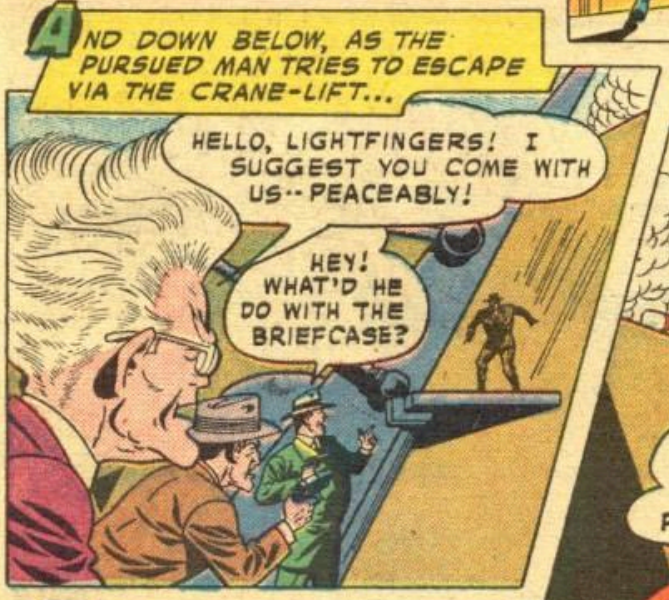

NO TIME FOR THAT... ONLY THIS ROBOT CRANE CAN GET US UP THERE IN TIME!


A MOMENT LATER...
ONE FLIP OF THE CRANE'S SWITCH-- AND UP WE GO!

BLAST BATMAN! ISN'T THERE ANY WAY TO ELUDE HIM AND THE KID?

WAIT! HERE'S AN IDEA...THIS FIRE-ALARM BOX!


ALMOST AT ONCE, ROBOT FIRE-FIGHTERS, BEARING ULTRA-MODERN GEAR, RESPOND TO THE PHONY CALL...
BACK UP, ROBIN! THAT'S A FIRE-FIGHTING GAS... IT MIGHT BE DANGEROUS ON CONTACT!


AND DOWN BELOW, AS THE PURSUED MAN TRIES TO ESCAPE VIA THE CRANE-LIFT...
HELLO, LIGHTFINGERS! I SUGGEST YOU COME WITH US-- PEACEABLY!
HEY! WHAT'D HE DO WITH THE BRIEFCASE?

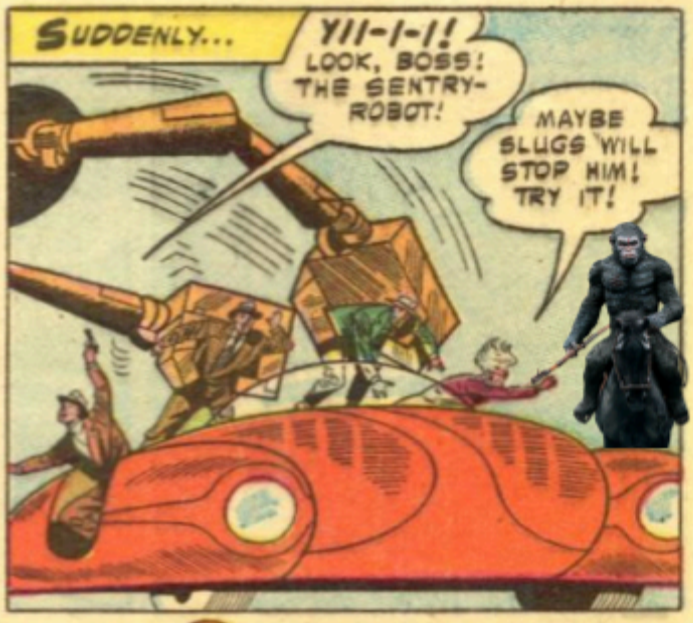
WHILE UP ABOVE...
WE CAN SWING DOWN ON THIS HINGED LADDER, ROBIN, BUT WE'LL HAVE TO HURRY! PROFESSOR DODGE IS ESCAPING WITH LIGHTFINGERS!
HE'LL MAKE HIM TELL WHERE THE BRIEFCASE IS HIDDEN!

BUT AS THE CRIME-FIGHTERS DROP TO THE STREET...
BATMAN! SOMETHING SEEMS WRONG WITH THAT SENTRY-ROBOT!
THE JOB OF A SENTRY-ROBOT IS TO REPAIR ELECTRONIC DAMAGE-- BUT THIS ONE SEEMS OUT OF CONTROL!

ELECTRONIC DISTURBANCES ACTIVATED THE SENTRY-ROBOT-- BUT SOMETHING ELSE IS CAUSING IT TO GO WILD! QUICKLY-- TO THE CRANE

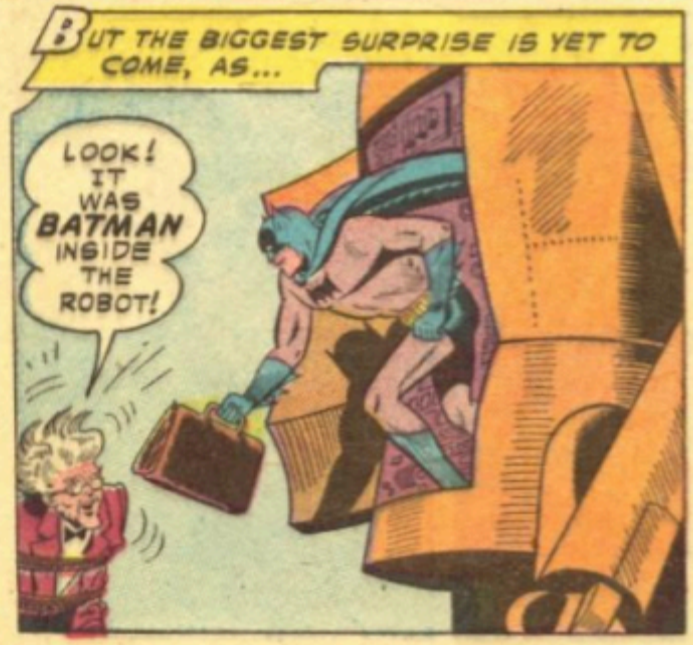
THOSE ROBOTS ARE MECHANICALLY PERFECT! WHAT COULD BE BOTHERING THE THING?
LEAD WOULD INTERFERE WITH ELECTRONIC IMPULSES-- AND LEAD WAS IN THE STOLEN BRIEFCASE! I THINK THAT'S THE ANSWER, ROBIN!

BUT AT THIS VERY MOMENT...
THAT'S RIGHT, PROFESSOR... I PUT THE BRIEFCASE INSIDE ONE OF THE SENTRY-ROBOTS! IT'S THERE NOW!
TURN BACK, BOYS! WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THAT ROBOT!

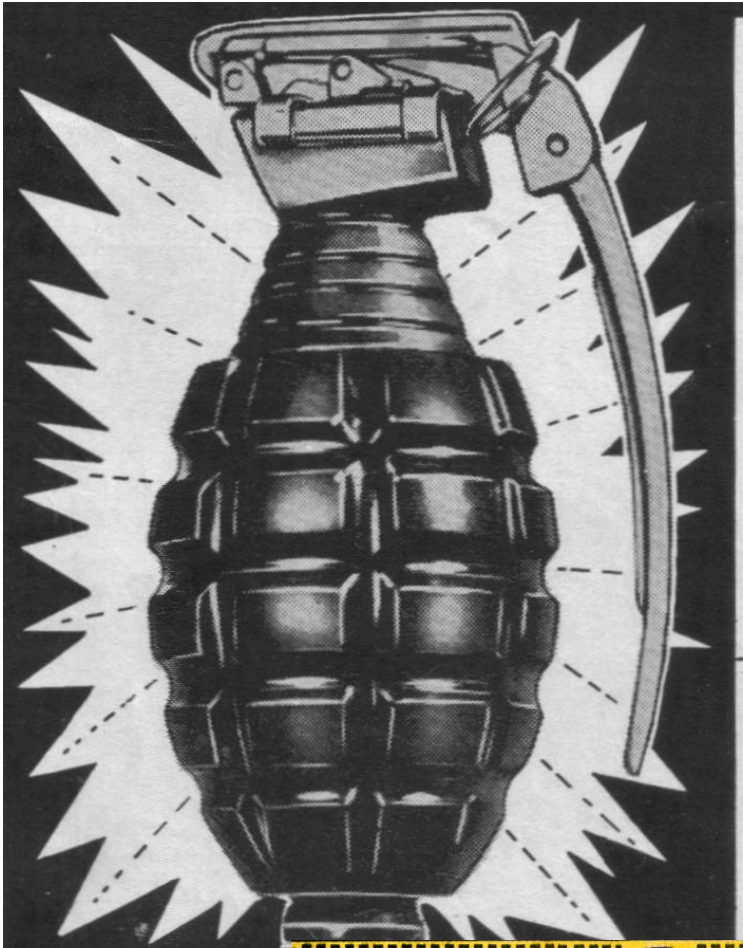

SUDDENLY...
YII-I-I! LOOK, BOSS! THE SENTRY-ROBOT!
MAYBE SLUGS WILL STOP HIM! TRY IT!

HE'S BROUGHT THE GANG TO BAY! NOW-- IT'S MY TURN!

BANG!
BANG!
BULLETS DON'T BOTHER THE THING!
W-WE'RE FINISHED... ROBIN'S GOT US TRAPPED!


BUT THE BIGGEST SURPRISE IS YET TO COME, AS...
LOOK! IT WAS BATMAN INSIDE THE ROBOT!

RIGHT! AFTER FINDING THE BRIEFCASE INSIDE THE ROBOT, I REALIZED I COULD WORK MORE EFFECTIVELY BY CLIMBING IN MYSELF AND OPERATING THE MANUAL CONTROLS!
AND A "ROBOT" NEVER DID A BETTER JOB OF WRAPPING UP A CASE!
THE END.



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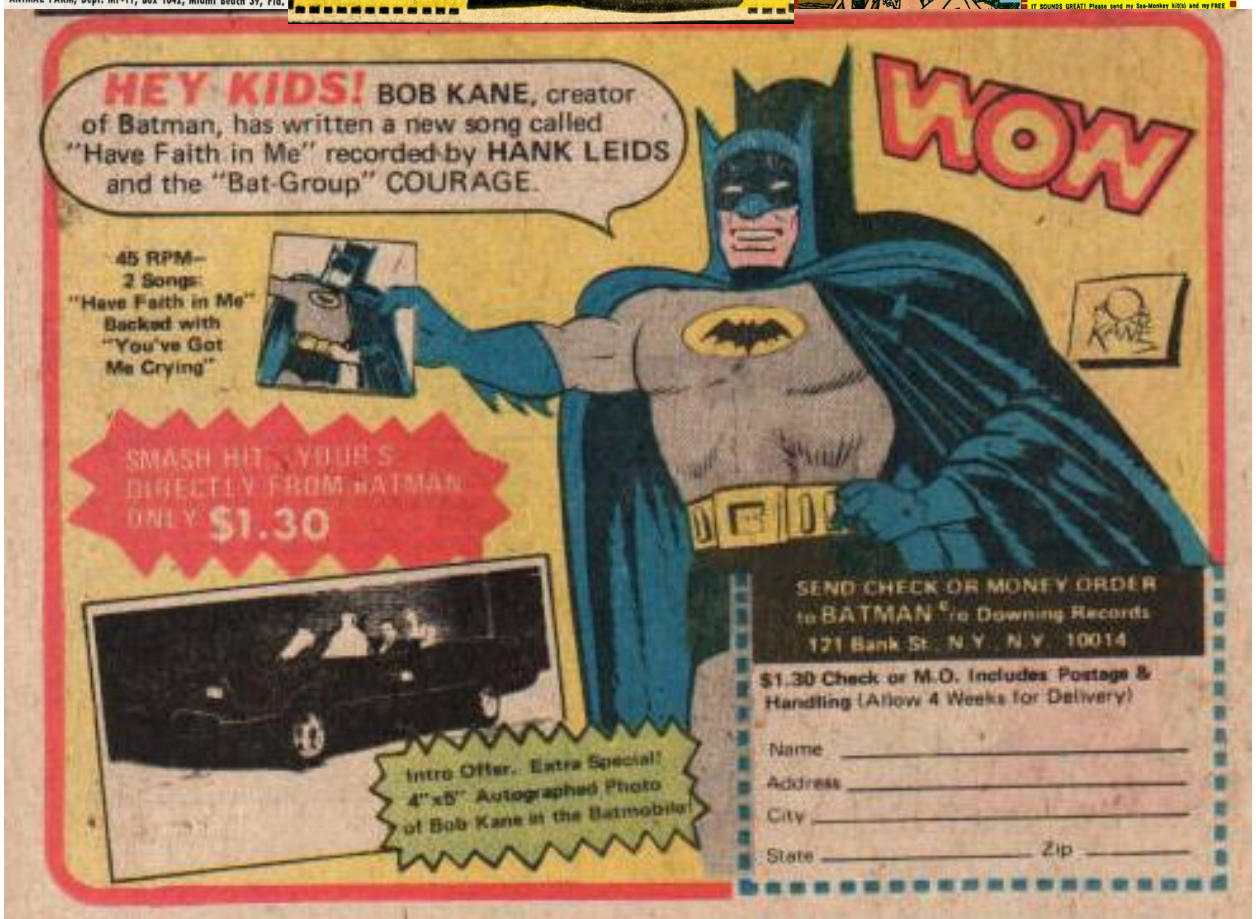
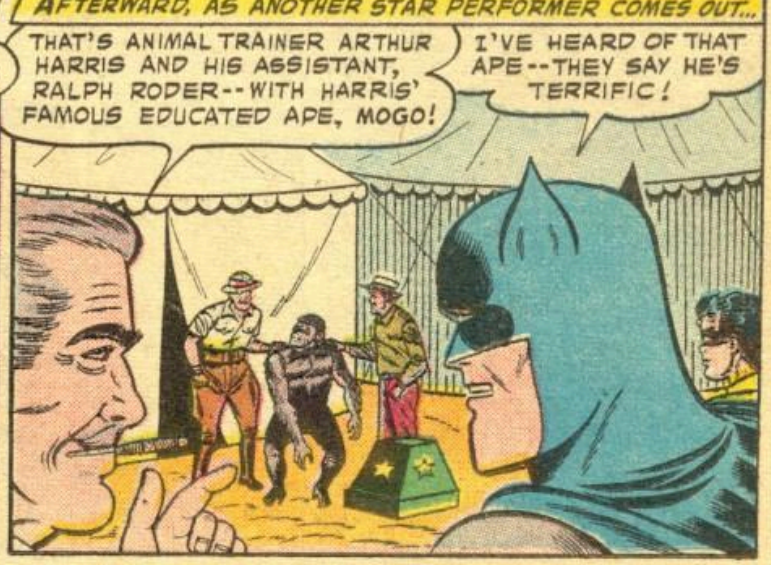


BATMAN WITH ROBIN -THE BOY WONDER-

BATMAN AND ROBIN HAVE SELDOM HAD ANY COMRADE TO HELP THEM IN THEIR WAR ON LAWBREAKERS... BUT NOW, THE DYNAMIC DETECTIVE DUO ACQUIRES A PARTNER WHO MAKES A MIGHTY ALLY INDEED! FOR THIS NEW "LAWMAN" ISN'T A MAN AT ALL, BUT THAT STRANGE AND AWESOME FIGURE KNOWN AS...

THE BAT-APE

BOB KANE



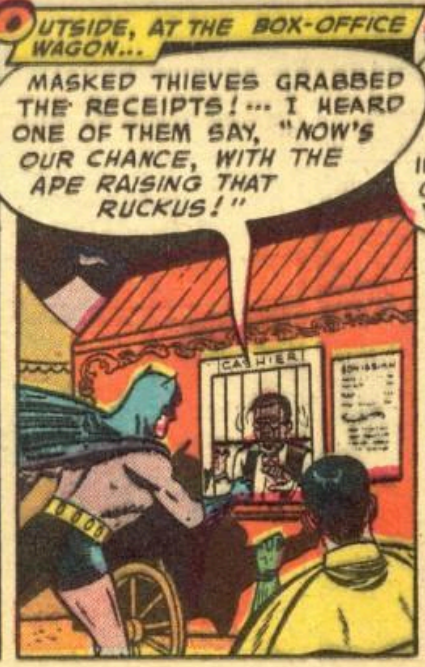
HA, HA... HE'S SURE FRIENDLY!
HE LIKES YOU, BATMAN... COME ON, MOGO-- TIME FOR YOUR ACROBATIC ACT!

AND AS MOGO PERFORMS HIS STUNTS...
WOW! WHAT A PARTNER HE'D MAKE IF HE HAD HUMAN INTELLIGENCE!

BUT SUDDENLY...
AARGH
LOOK OUT! THE APE'S GONE BERSERK!
HE'S GOING TO LEAP!

BUT, BEFORE THE ENRAGED BEAST CAN CAUSE ANY DESTRUCTION...
MOGO, WHAT'S COME OVER YOU? CALM DOWN... CALM DOWN, I SAY!
LOOK! THE APE'S DOING JUST AS HE'S TOLD! HARRIS SURE HAS A WAY WITH THAT ANIMAL!

JUST THEN, HOWEVER...
BATMAN-- HELP! BANDITS!
WHAT--?

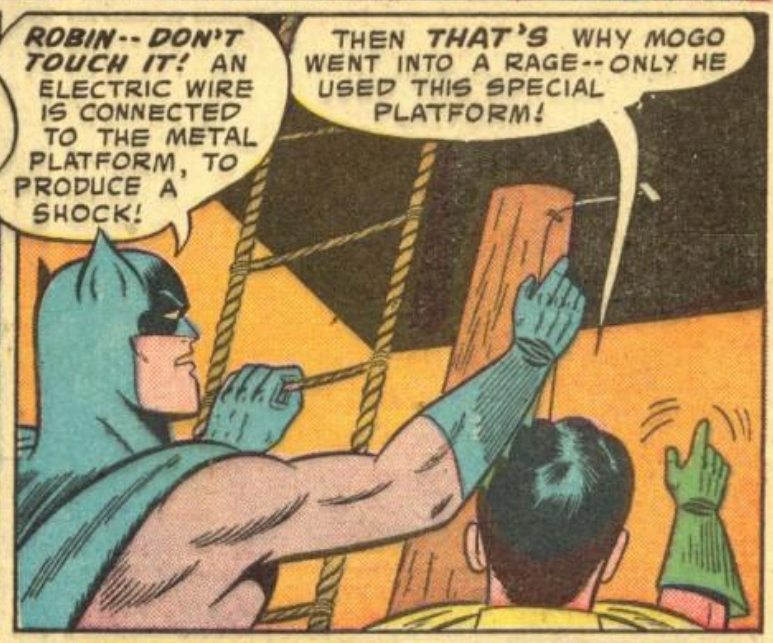

OUTSIDE, AT THE BOX-OFFICE WAGON...
MASKED THIEVES GRABBED THE RECEIPTS! ... I HEARD ONE OF THEM SAY, "NOW'S OUR CHANCE, WITH THE APE RAISING THAT RUCKUS!"
CASHIER

AND SOON, WHEN POLICE ARRIVE...
HARRIS, YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD SCARE THE CROWD INTO CAUSING A COMMOTION TO COVER YOUR PALS' ROBBERY!
BUT I DIDN'T! I DON'T KNOW WHAT ANGERED MOGO!

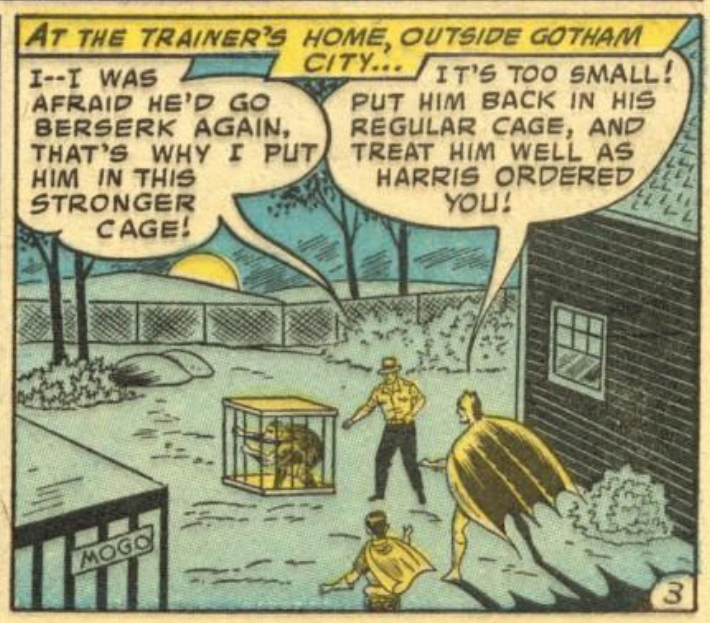
IT'S TOO COINCIDENTAL! WE'LL HAVE TO HOLD YOU ON SUSPICION TILL WE INVESTIGATE!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF MOGO, MR. HARRIS, UNTIL YOU CLEAR YOURSELF AND RETURN!

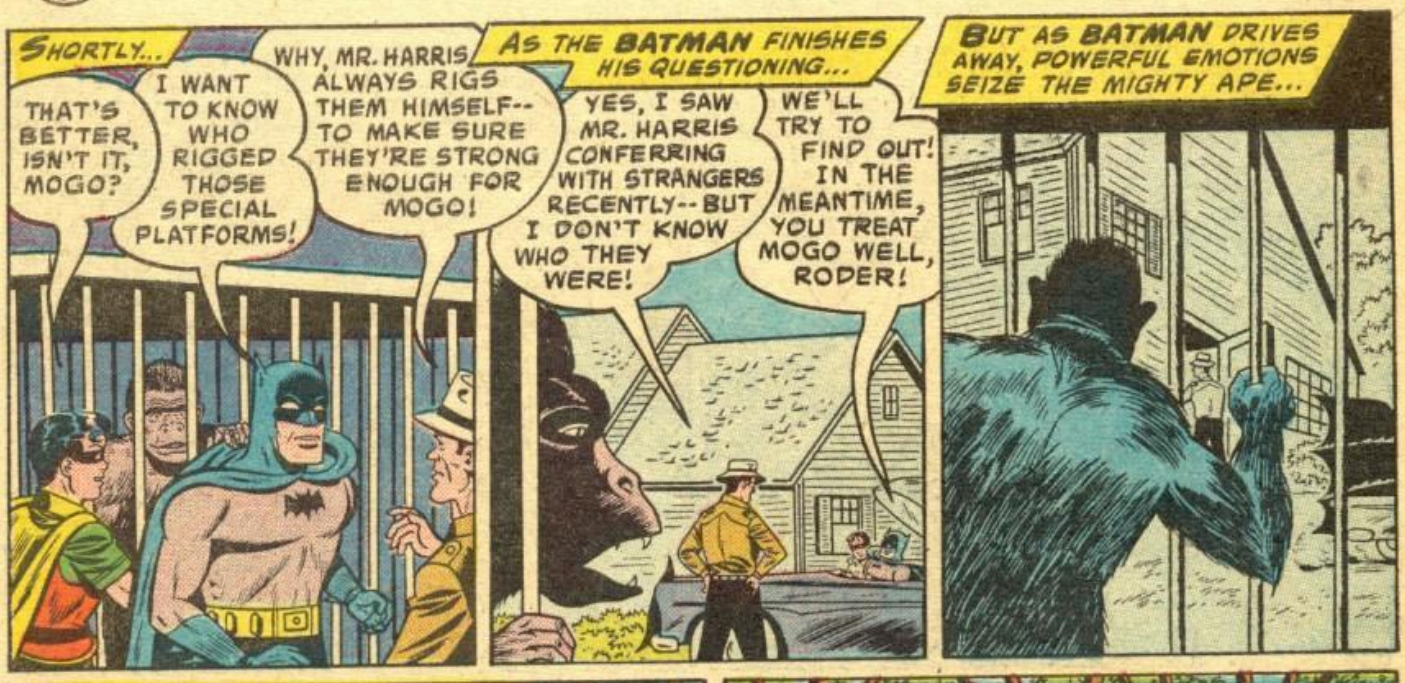
TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM, RODER!... NO, MOGO, YOU CAN'T COME WITH ME THIS TIME! GO HOME WITH RODER!
POOR MOGO LOOKS VERY UNHAPPY!

AFTER THE OTHERS HAVE LEFT...
BATMAN, WE SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR THOSE THIEVES--
HM, IF MOGO WENT BERSERK AT HARRIS' ORDERS, WHY DID HE DO SO ONLY WHEN HE REACHED THAT HIGH PLATFORM? LET'S TAKE A LOOK--


ROBIN-- DON'T TOUCH IT! AN ELECTRIC WIRE IS CONNECTED TO THE METAL PLATFORM, TO PRODUCE A SHOCK!
THEN THAT'S WHY MOGO WENT INTO A RAGE--ONLY HE USED THIS SPECIAL PLATFORM!

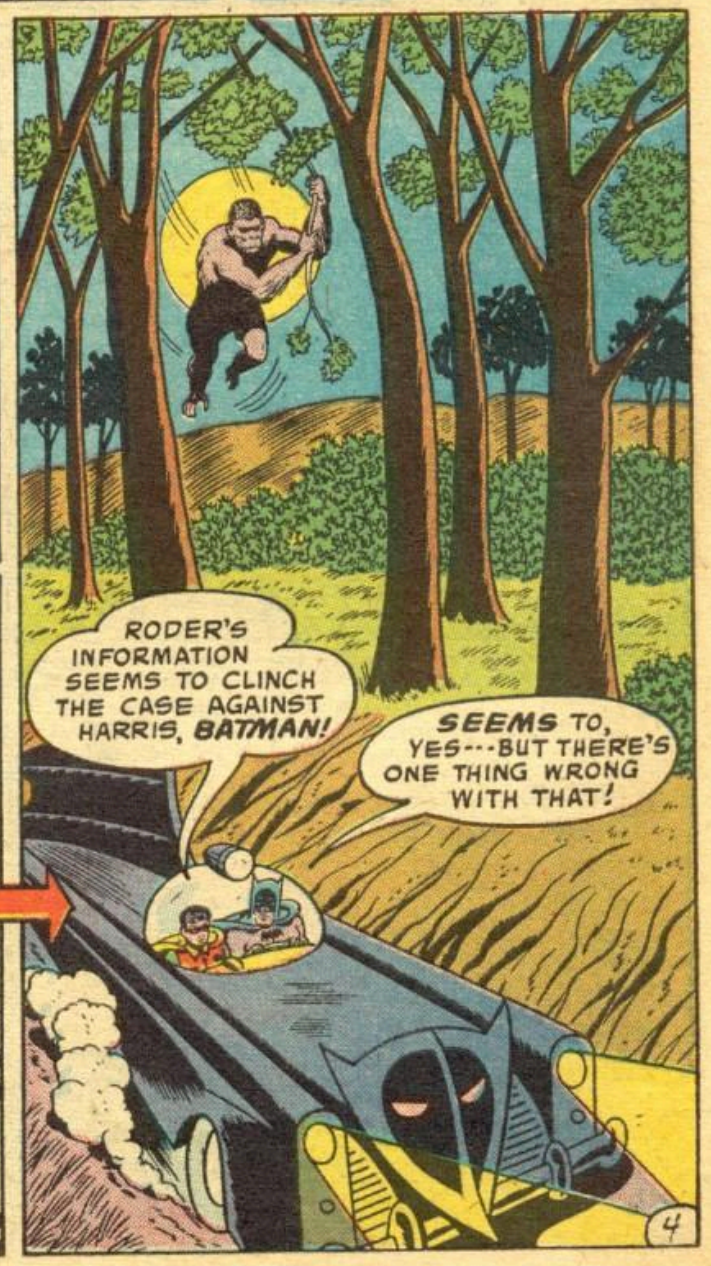
MINUTES LATER...
WE'LL FIND OUT FROM HARRIS' ASSISTANT, RODER, WHO COULD HAVE RIGGED THAT WIRE!
IT WAS A CUNNING WAY TO START A PANIC, ALL RIGHT!


AT THE TRAINER'S HOME, OUTSIDE GOTHAM CITY...
I--I WAS AFRAID HE'D GO BERSERK AGAIN, THAT'S WHY I PUT HIM IN THIS STRONGER CAGE!
IT'S TOO SMALL! PUT HIM BACK IN HIS REGULAR CAGE, AND TREAT HIM WELL AS HARRIS ORDERED YOU!
MOGO


SHORTLY...
THAT'S BETTER, ISN'T IT, MOGO?
I WANT TO KNOW WHO RIGGED THOSE SPECIAL PLATFORMS!
WHY, MR. HARRIS ALWAYS RIGS THEM HIMSELF-- TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE STRONG ENOUGH FOR MOGO!
AS THE BATMAN FINISHES HIS QUESTIONING...
YES, I SAW MR. HARRIS CONFERRING WITH STRANGERS RECENTLY--BUT I DON'T KNOW WHO THEY WERE!
WE'LL TRY TO FIND OUT! IN THE MEANTIME, YOU TREAT MOGO WELL, RODER!
BUT AS BATMAN DRIVES AWAY, POWERFUL EMOTIONS SEIZE THE MIGHTY APE...

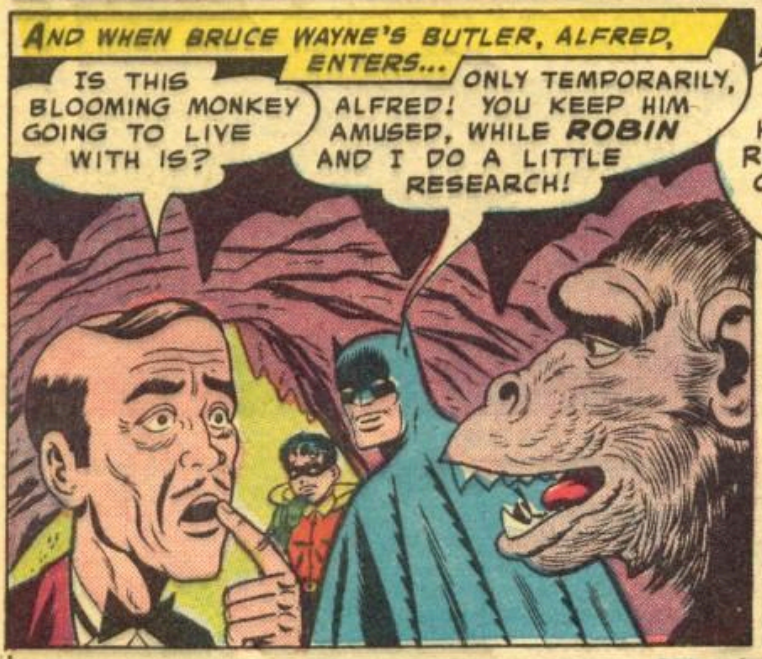
...WHICH DRIVE HIM TO ESCAPE...

AND AS NIGHT FALLS, MOGO FOLLOWS HIS NEW FRIEND, BATMAN!


RODER'S INFORMATION SEEMS TO CLINCH THE CASE AGAINST HARRIS, BATMAN!
SEEMS TO, YES---BUT THERE'S ONE THING WRONG WITH THAT!

SOON, IN THE BAT-CAVE HIDDEN UNDER THE MANSION OF SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE, BATMAN'S OTHER IDENTITY...
IF ALL HARRIS HAD TO DO WAS ORDER MOGO TO GO BERSERK, WHY SHOULD HE USE THE ELECTRIC WIRE?
BATMAN, LOOK! LOOK!

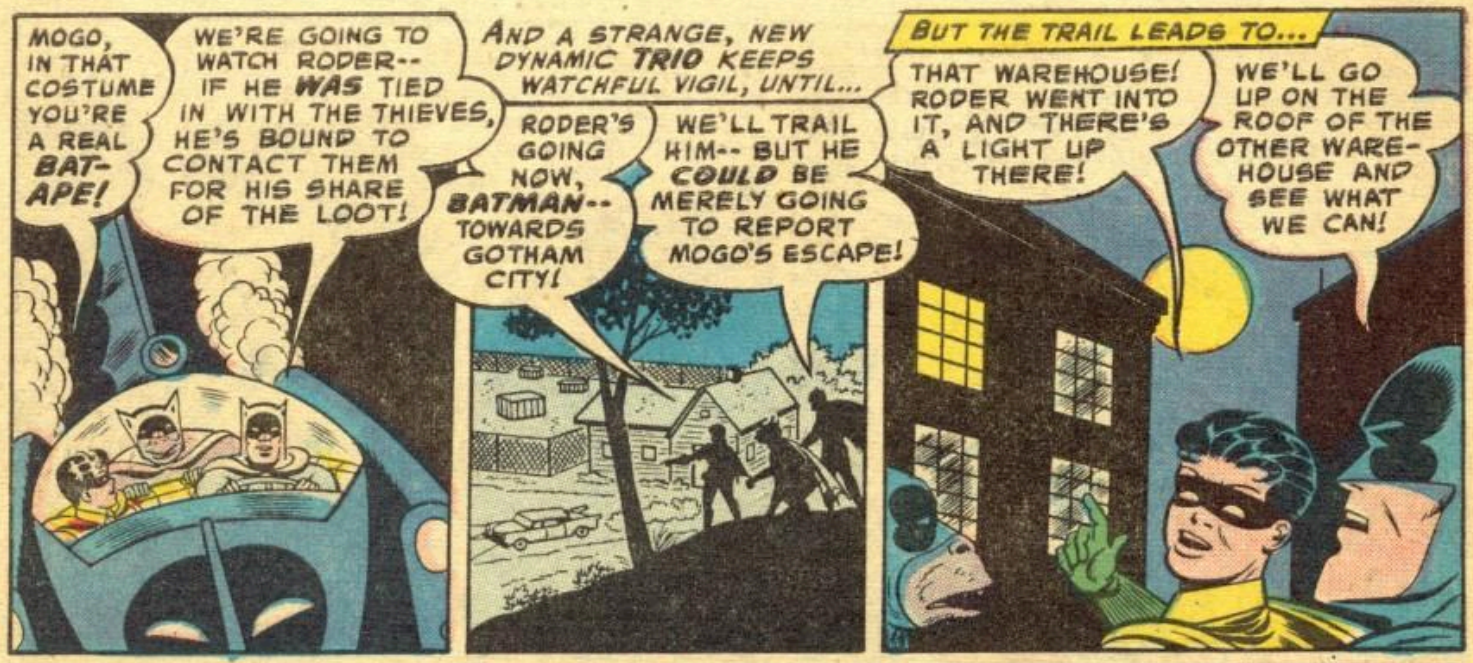
MOGO! HE BROKE OUT AND FOLLOWED YOU, BECAUSE YOU BEFRIENDED HIM! I DIDN'T THINK WE COULD BE TRAILED HERE!
NO ORDINARY APE COULD--BUT MOGO IS SUPER-INTELLIGENT!


AND WHEN BRUCE WAYNE'S BUTLER, ALFRED, ENTERS...
IS THIS BLOOMING MONKEY GOING TO LIVE WITH IS?
ONLY TEMPORARILY, ALFRED! YOU KEEP HIM AMUSED, WHILE ROBIN AND I DO A LITTLE RESEARCH!

AFTER A SEARCH THROUGH THEIR VAST CRIME-FILE...
NEITHER HARRIS NOR RODER HAS ANY CRIMINAL RECORD, BUT ONE OF THEM RIGGED THAT SHOCK-DEVICE!
AND SINCE HARRIS WOULDN'T NEED SUCH A DEVICE, IT COULD BE RODER WHO---
MR. BRUCE! HELP!

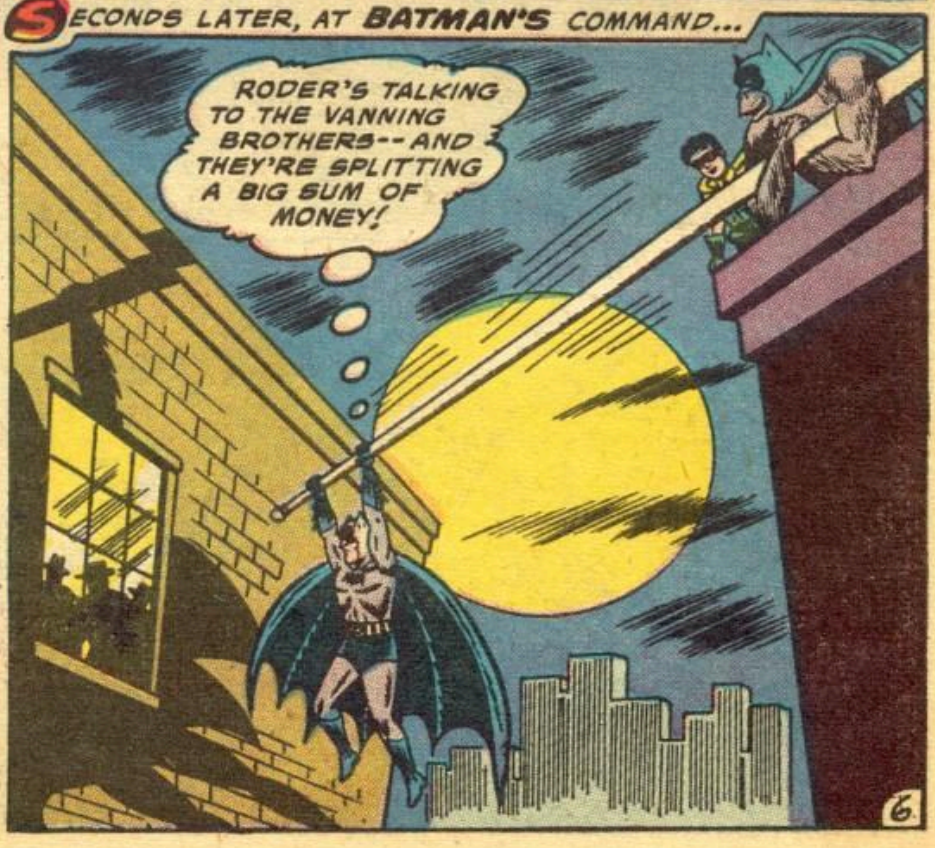
HE PUT ON ONE OF YOUR HOODS AND MASKS-- AND NOW HE WANTS A CAPE!
ALL APES ARE BORN IMITATORS! IF HE WANTS TO LOOK LIKE ME, LET HIM, ALFRED!

YOU CAN'T LEAVE THAT APE WITH ME IF YOU GO OUT! I'LL--I'LL RESIGN FIRST!
WE'LL TAKE MOGO WITH US, ALFRED! I'M AFRAID HE'D FOLLOW ME, ANYWAY!


MOGO, IN THAT COSTUME YOU'RE A REAL BAT-APE!
WE'RE GOING TO WATCH RODER-- IF HE WAS TIED IN WITH THE THIEVES, HE'S BOUND TO CONTACT THEM FOR HIS SHARE OF THE LOOT!
AND A STRANGE, NEW DYNAMIC TRIO KEEPS WATCHFUL VIGIL, UNTIL...
RODER'S GOING NOW, BATMAN-- TOWARDS GOTHAM CITY!
WE'LL TRAIL HIM-- BUT HE COULD BE MERELY GOING TO REPORT MOGO'S ESCAPE!
BUT THE TRAIL LEADS TO...
THAT WAREHOUSE! RODER WENT INTO IT, AND THERE'S A LIGHT UP THERE!
WE'LL GO UP ON THE ROOF OF THE OTHER WARE-HOUSE AND SEE WHAT WE CAN!

THERE'S RODER, TALKING TO SOMEONE! IF WE COULD ONLY GET CLOSER AND LISTEN--- BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO HOOK OUR ROPES ON!
HM, MAYBE THERE IS A WAY TO GET ACROSS---

THAT'S IT, MOGO--LIFT THE FLAGPOLE OUT OF ITS SOCKET! THEN LOWER IT SO I CAN GRAB THE OTHER END!


SECONDS LATER, AT BATMAN'S COMMAND...
RODER'S TALKING TO THE VANNING BROTHERS--AND THEY'RE SPLITTING A BIG SUM OF MONEY!

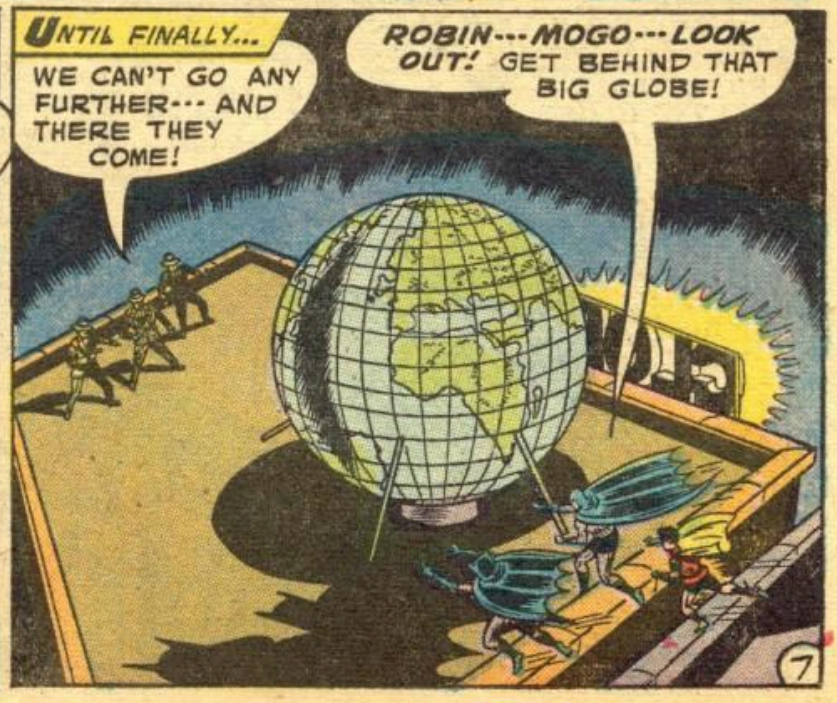
SUDDENLY, AS ONE OF THE THIEVES TURNS...
SOMEBODY'S OUT THERE! IT'S...IT'S BATMAN! BUT HOW--?
HE'S SEEN US! SHOOT!
LIFT UP, MOGO! UP!

AS THE MIGHTY APE INSTANTLY OBEYS...
JUST IN TIME---GOOD WORK, MOGO!
BANG! BANG!

MOMENTS LATER...
THEY'RE ESCAPING, AND WE CAN'T GET ACROSS TO FOLLOW!
MAYBE WE CAN, WITH OUR NEW PARTNER'S HELP!

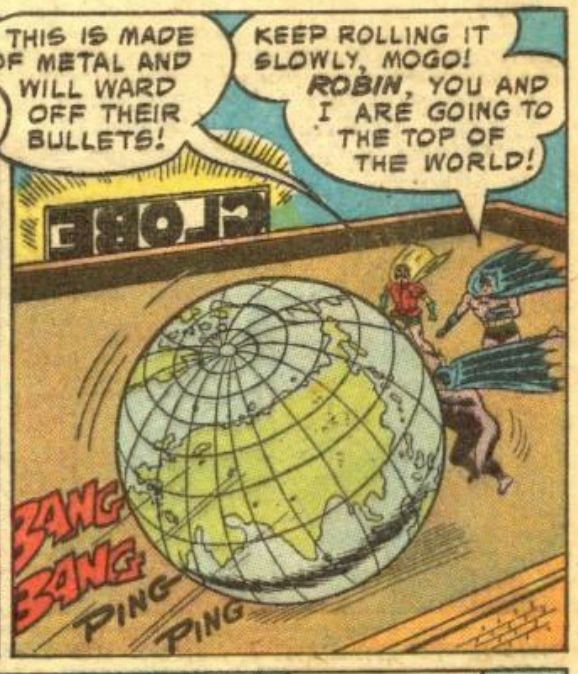
QUICKLY, THE GREAT BAT-APE OBEYS COMMANDS...
AND ONCE HE TAKES OUR ROPES ACROSS, WE CAN SWING ACROSS FAST!
THAT'S IT, MOGO--VAULT ACROSS!

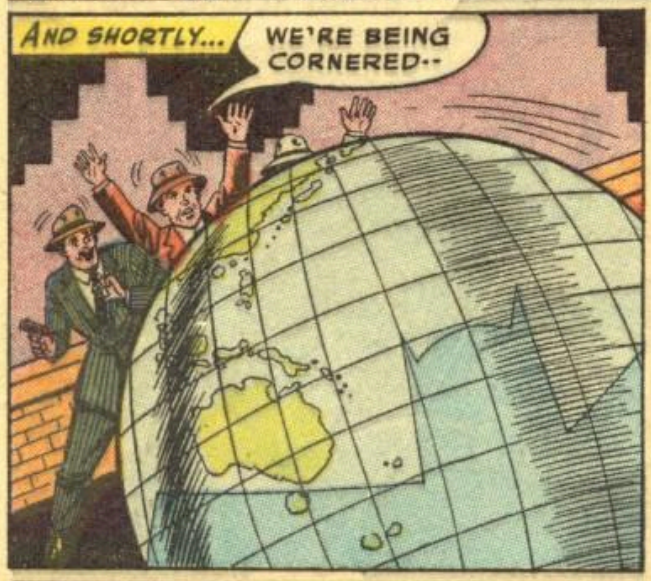
THEN, HIGH ABOVE GOTHAM CITY, A STRANGE PURSUIT ENSUES...
I DON'T SEE THEM--HOW DO WE KNOW THEY WENT THIS WAY?
MOGO IS FOLLOWING THEM BY SCENT, AS ONLY AN ANIMAL CAN DO!

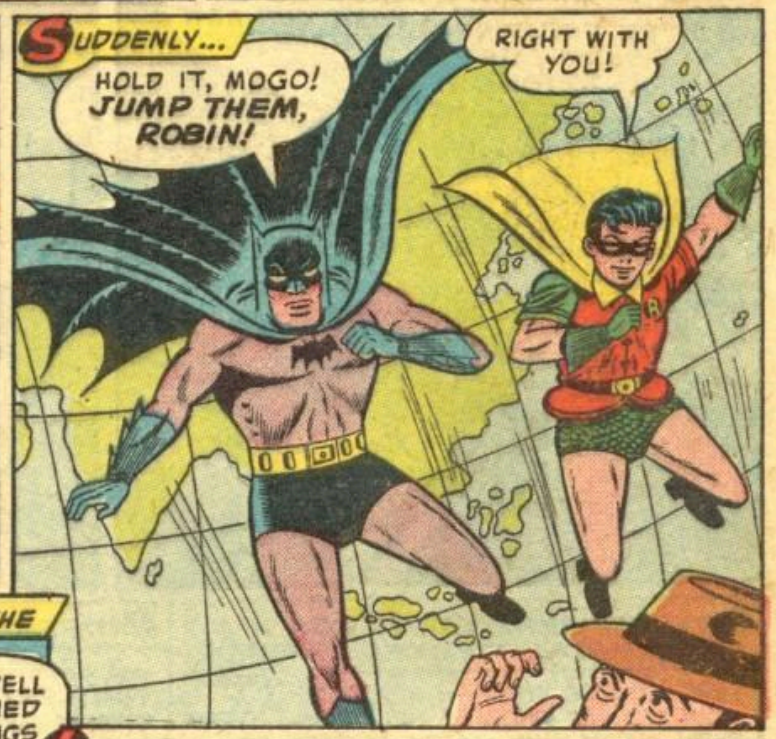

UNTIL FINALLY...
WE CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER--- AND THERE THEY COME!
ROBIN---MOGO---LOOK OUT! GET BEHIND THAT BIG GLOBE!

TRY TO TAKE US, BATMAN--!
THEY'RE ARMED, AND I DON'T WANT TO RISK MOGO---

WITH A SUDDEN INSPIRATION...
SEE, MOGO? PUSH BUT NOT TOO HARD-- JUST ROLL THE BIG GLOBE!


THIS IS MADE OF METAL AND WILL WARD OFF THEIR BULLETS!
KEEP ROLLING IT SLOWLY, MOGO! ROBIN, YOU AND I ARE GOING TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD!
BANG
BANG
PING
PING


AND SHORTLY...
WE'RE BEING CORNERED--


SUDDENLY...
HOLD IT, MOGO! JUMP THEM, ROBIN!
RIGHT WITH YOU!

FAST-FLYING FISTS MAKE SHORT WORK OF THE PANICKY CROOKS...
THAT'S RIGHT, MOGO--- PUT THE GLOBE BACK IN PLACE! YOU'VE CLEARED YOUR MASTER!
I---I MIGHT AS WELL CONFESS! I PLANNED IT WITH THE VANNINGS, AND ONE OF THEM MADE THAT REMARK TO INCRIMINATE HARRIS!

LATER, WHEN HARRIS HAS BEEN FREED...
I'M SO GRATEFUL TO MOGO FOR WHAT HE DID FOR ME, I'M TAKING HIM BACK TO AFRICA TO SET HIM FREE!
GOOD OLD MOGO! WE'LL NEVER FORGET WHEN YOU WERE THE BAT-APE!
THE END.

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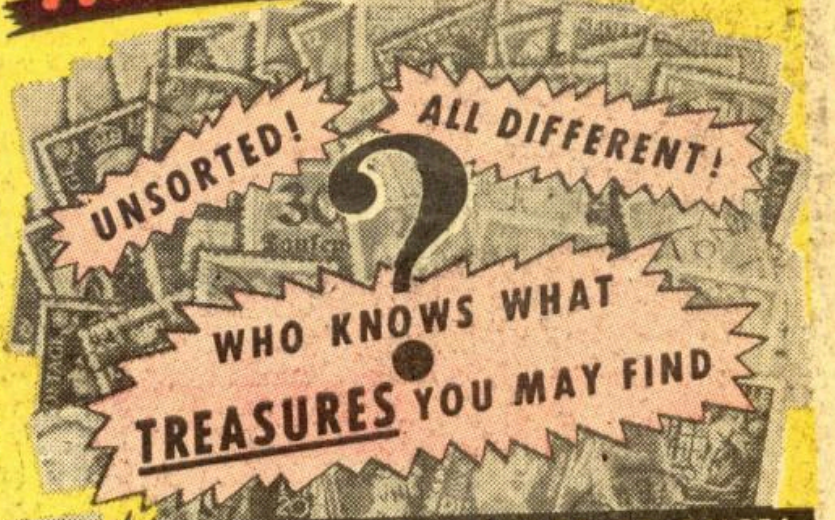

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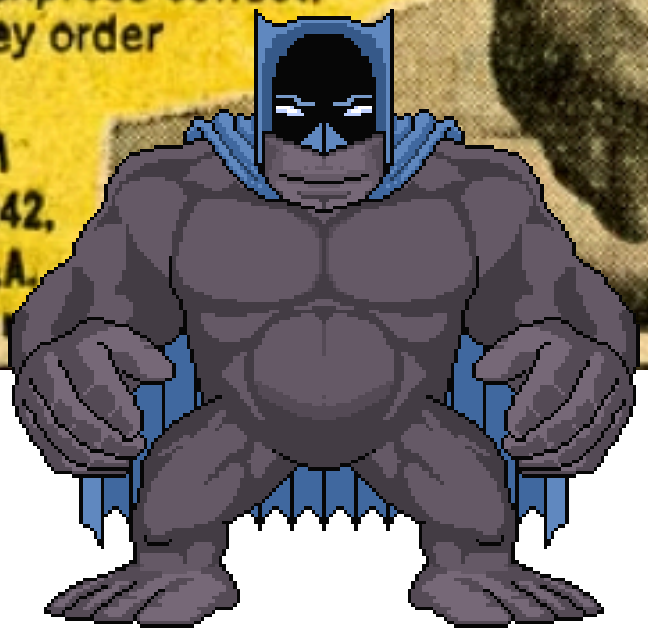
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